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SC#01847/58-a

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**SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE
AND AIR-RAID SHELTER CONSTRUCTION**

I. You have before you a new CIA report on Soviet Civil Defense and Air-Raid Shelter Construction. This new report:

- A. Has been concurred in by all members of the IAC,
- B. Reflects an extensive collection effort by all branches of the intelligence community which produced valuable new information,
- C. Generally confirms the conclusions I presented to you on January 15.

II. Difficulty of Observation

- A. It is impossible to determine the precise state of civil defense readiness in the USSR.
- B. Hard facts difficult to collect.
- C. Many Soviet civil defense activities under security wraps:
 - 1. Number and strength of shelters, particularly heavy ones, concealed;
 - 2. Existing shelters difficult to detect even by trained observers. Many identifying features hard to spot--hermetic sealing and ventilating equipment often installed after building completed.

III. Nature of Evidence

Nevertheless, we have considerable evidence on the Soviet shelter program.

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A. More than 200 eyewitness reports from PW's, defectors, etc., who have observed or worked on civil defense shelters as late as 1957;

B. All known official civil defense instructions advise population to use nearest shelter in event of air attack--none mention mass evacuation. For example:

1. Soviet Training Manual for Local Anti-Air Defense (1957)

says:

"At the signal 'Air Raid,' all residents must immediately go to the shelter or cover assigned to them."

2. A 1956 Soviet Red Cross publication says:

"The most important means of collective defense from all the dangerous factors of the atomic blast is the shelter which has been specially equipped for anti-atomic and anti-chemical defense. Shelters are generally constructed in the cellars of residential homes and industrial buildings ..."

C. In the past two months, evidence that:

1. Soviets continuing to install shelter doors in Moscow subway

[REDACTED]

2. Heavy basement shelters installed in government buildings and railroad stations [REDACTED]

3. There is continuing construction of heavy shelter in Soviet economic enterprises [REDACTED]

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4. [REDACTED]

D. [REDACTED]

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attest to continuing civil defense training program. Most recent evidence includes:

1. Official announcement on 12 February that 55.5 percent of the population had completed a civil defense "anti-atomic" training course and that two more advanced courses are scheduled for the entire population, to be completed in 1958 and 1960.
2. Reports of civil defense training activities in several Soviet factories and a number of city-wide blackout drills [REDACTED]

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IV. Conclusions

Weighing all the available evidence, the conclusions of the intelligence community are that:

A. No firm estimate on number of persons afforded shelter protection--believe a minimum of 10 to 15 millions of the urban population of 74 million are afforded varying degrees of protection--could run higher. (See paragraph 11 of report.)

B. Shelters which might survive nuclear attack and remain air-tight and equipped with adequate filtered ventilation would substantially reduce casualties from fall-out.

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C. The Soviet shelter program is a sustained effort and will probably be continued in the future--there is no evidence that its completion is geared to any future target date for the initiation of hostilities.

V. The uncertainty surrounding many aspects of the Soviet shelter and civil defense programs is well recognized and the intelligence effort on this subject will continue to have high priority.

ORR/CIA
19 March 1958

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